

cc - Liaison

CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: March 30, 1954

FROM : W. A. Branigan

TOP SECRET (U)

SUBJECT: FRANK WISNER
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Gearty
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
 Sizoo
Miss Gandy

Classified by SP4/dw/cm
Exempt from GDSR

In the attached memorandum of 3/24/54 by Mr. Nichols, information is set forth received from Don Surine concerning Wisner who is a Deputy Director of CIA. The allegations are substantially the same as have been previously received from several sources. These allegations have never been substantiated and the Director of CIA in 1952 stated that these allegations were without any foundation whatsoever. Embellishments of current Surine data reflect that Wisner's female friend in Rumania, Caragea, has a brother now operating a hotel in Switzerland as a cover for Soviet agents; that Wisner set up a shortwave radio in Caragea's home to put out pro-Russian material; that Caragea accompanied Wisner by Army plane on a supply trip to Switzerland in 1945 where Caragea picked up medical supplies later sold to the Russians with Caragea and Wisner splitting the money. All of these allegations presuppose that Caragea was a Soviet agent in 1944. [In this regard, CIA has previously advised that in 1944 Wisner, along with other OSS officers, was billeted in Caragea's home. In 1948, this woman confessed to CIC, Vienna, that she had worked for Rumanian intelligence and had been a Communist informer for the previous two years in Rumania. CIA investigation disclosed no association between Wisner and Caragea since 1945 and no indication that Wisner had any knowledge of espionage activities on the part of Caragea.]

SI (RS) remain classified per
CIA letter 90-27-88 (U)

Surine also mentioned witnesses to Wisner's activities in Rumania, Malikia (undoubtedly Nicholas Malaxa, wealthy Rumanian industrialist now in US, subject of a closed Bureau investigation based on his own pro-Russian sympathies); Max Ausnit, "involved in the [redacted] case" (Max's brother Edgar received publicity in connection with the [redacted] case in New York). Malaxa and the Ausnit brothers are financial, political and social enemies of long standing and have repeatedly made charges and countercharges against each other to various Government agencies. It is known that Wisner as a private attorney has represented Max Ausnit in legal matters against Malaxa and may have incurred Malaxa's enmity. CIA considers both Malaxa and Ausnit as unscrupulous characters. Surine also mentioned a [redacted] and an unnamed [redacted] as sources of additional information concerning Wisner's activities in Rumania.

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Wisner was the subject of an AEA-A investigation in June, 1949, which disclosed no disloyal data. (116-142295)

62-97311

Attachment sent 3-31-54

DFXC: hmb

RECORDED - 60

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RECOMMENDATION:

Since the allegations supplied by Surine are basically the same as those previously received which have been described by CIA as unfounded and further since the alleged new data supplied by Surine is aimed at Wisner's character rather than security, it is recommended that no investigative action be taken by the Bureau. As far as is known, Wisner's alleged paramour has never been in the United States and no basis for investigation of her by the Bureau exists. Since data relates to a high-ranking CIA employee, it is recommended that liaison furnish the information supplied by Surine to CIA appropriately protecting the source. A memorandum for delivery to CIA is attached.

Handwritten notes:
on 4/1/54
V.
JPM
m
oc

4/1/54 - Info should be given to A. Dulles. He is enroute. Expected back 4/5/54. Liaison will follow JPM.

4/6/54. Info given to A. Dulles - JPM

ADDENDUM: 4/2/54 DFXC:hmb

On 3/29/54, [] advised Mr. Nichols that [] affiliated with International Telephone and Telegraph Company, NY, was another individual who could furnish information concerning the Wisner - Caragea relationship. This information is being added to data to be furnished CIA.

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02-97311 - P

March 30, 1954

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4ELW/GCM
ON 1-31-86

**FRANK WISNER
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING**

On March 24, 1954, a representative of another branch of this government confidentially furnished the following information concerning Mr. Wisner:

During the war years, Mr. Wisner was an OSS officer assigned to Bucharest, Rumania, and while there became acquainted with a Rumanian woman named Tania Caragea described by the source as an "infomaniac," possibly nymphomaniac. Caragea is reportedly a very beautiful red-haired woman with green eyes who at one time was a German agent. During the occupation of Rumania by Allied forces, the American Military Mission reportedly took over several houses in Bucharest, including one owned by Caragea and allegedly Frank Wisner lived with her in Bucharest. According to the source, Caragea was at that time a Russian agent, her married name being Draghera. Caragea's brother is allegedly operating a hotel in Switzerland which is used as a cover for Soviet agents.

It was further alleged that Wisner while residing at Caragea's home set up a short-wave radio station which was used to put out pro-Russian material. It was further alleged that in 1943 Wisner requisitioned an Army plane to pick up medical supplies in Switzerland; that Caragea accompanied Wisner on this trip, picked up the medical supplies and, upon returning to Rumania, half of the supplies was turned over to the Red Cross; the other half was allegedly sold to the Soviet Union with Wisner and Caragea splitting the money.

The source stated that individuals who could testify to the above items included Nicholas Malin (undoubtedly Nicholas Malin); a Colonel Anderson who now resides at 50-50 Southwest 28th Street, Miami 4, Florida, who was with General Schuyler on the American Mission in Bucharest; and an

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D. F. X. Callahan:hmb

Original and one copy
delivered to CIA via liaison

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unidentified Army Sergeant now living in Texas who is known to Colonel Anderson. The source also stated that another individual very close to Wiener is Max Asmit, a millionaire who was reportedly involved in the [redacted] vice case in New York and reportedly used vice to get control of various officials. Max Asmit was described as a bitter enemy of Malizia. Previous correspondence with your Agency in related matters reflects that you are familiar with the activities of Malizia and the Asmit brothers and are aware of the personal feud which has existed between both families for many years.

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While it is realized that a great deal of the above material concerning Wiener has previously been furnished to your Agency, the above is being furnished for your possible interest. No investigative action concerning this matter is being taken by us.

Subsequent to receipt of the above data, the source advised that [redacted]
[redacted]
was in possession of information concerning the reported association of Mr. Wiener and Sandra Gargano.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: March 29, 1954

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-31-86 BY SP5/ELW/DM

Tolson ☒
 Ladd ☒
 Nichols ☒
 Belmont ☒
 Clegg ☒
 Glavin ☒
 Harbo ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Tracy ☒
 Laughlin ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Winterrowd ☒
 Tele. Rm. ☒
 Holloman ☒
 Gandy ☒

Don Surine recently furnished me with information on Tandra Caragea, a suspected Soviet agent who has had contact in the past with Frank Wisner of CIA. Surine phoned today advising that he had ascertained that a reliable source on this entire operation was

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Surine states that [redacted] told Surine that [redacted] he felt, was in the United States at this time and could be located by contacting [redacted] Telephone is [redacted] Surine states he understands that [redacted] not only knows of Caragea's relationships with Wisner intimately but that he even has files on the matter.

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cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Belmont

JJM:rcw

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